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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H .

F O R T H E Y E A R 1 9 4 5 .

T . P . E V A N S . M . R . C . S . , L . R . C . P . , D . P . H .

Council Hall

BEACONSFIELD.

November, 1946.

Mr Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1945.

The year under review was both memorable and momentous. It was memorable because of the cessation of hostilities with its two associated victory days, namely, V.E. Day on the 8th of May and V.J. Day on the 15th August: momentous because victory brought not only its own special and immediate problems, but it also brought to the forefront those problems which the nation, geared to the grim necessities of total war, had temporarily relegated to the background for a period of nearly six years.

Of the special and immediate problems brought by victory, one related to public health, namely, the provision of adequate arrangements against the spread of infectious disease in the community by the return of armed forces of the Crown to this country. The rapid release of our own prisoners of war from their prisons on the continent, often infected, and their speedy air transport to this country called for special arrangements in the field of public health. During the war, it was known that serious epidemic diseases, such as diphtheria, smallpox and typhus fever were prevalent, not only on the continent of Europe, but in many other parts of the world where our troops were fighting. When they returned to this country for demobilisation, having themselves become contacts of these diseases, or having passed through an infected area, they presented a similar problem. Of the many tributes paid to medicine and surgery in the treatment of disease during the war, it may well be that not the least of these has been the special emphasis placed upon the value and importance of preventive medicine.

Immunisation against Diphtheria figures continue to be satisfactory: I have referred more fully to this matter on page 8 of the body of this report. The percentage figures on the 31st December, 1945 were as follows:-

0-5 Age Group
83.3%

5-15 Age Group
80.7%

I would remind the Council that on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, in addition to the usual copies to the Ministry of Health and the Board of Trade, this year for the first time, copies of this report are to be submitted to the Boundary Commission and to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

In conclusion, it is once again my very pleasing duty to thank my colleagues and officers of the Council and particularly to the Council's Sanitary Inspector, Mr Crosby, for their active co-operation. And, finally, Mr Chairman and Councillors, may I thank you for your willing support and kindly assistance throughout the year.

I am, your obedient Servant

T.P. EVANS

Medical Officer of Health.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE REPORT

- A. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.
Special Conditions
Area: Population
Births and Deaths.
- B. HEALTH SERVICES.
Ambulance Facilities
Nursing
Clinics and Hospitals.
- C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.
Water
Drainage and Sewerage
Public Cleansing
Salvage.
- D. HOUSING.
- E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.
Milk Supply
Meat
- F. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

S T A F F.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

T.P. EVANS. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

JOHN H. CROSBY. F.I.A.S., F.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres) of District.....5,314
Number of Inhabitable Houses (per Rate Book)1755
Rateable Value of Area.....£80,800
Sum represented by 1d Rate.....£332.

POPULATION.

As reported in last year's report the war-time population of the District was maintained at approximately 9,000, this being due to the influx of people from the London area following aerial attacks. On the cessation of the European war, many people left the district and the population fell to 6,800, but by the end of the year according to a return from the Food Office, this figure had increased to approximately 7,000. This general overall reduction in population has had the effect of considerably improving the housing conditions in general.

Note

Registrars 1939 population figure 5,800.

BIRTHS

Birth Rate per 1000 population 15.3
 Birth Rate - England and Wales 16.6

(a)	Live Births.	Males	Females.	Total.
	Legitimate	51	41	92
	Illegitimate	5	4	9
(b)	Still Births.			
	Legitimate	0	2	2
	Illegitimate	0	0	0

DEATHS

(a) Deaths from puerperal causes.....Nil

(b) Deaths of Infants under one year of age...1....

Deaths of Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..10.8

Infantile Mortality:

All infants per 1,000 live births.....9.9...

England and Wales.....46.0...

<u>DISEASES</u>	Males	Females.	Total.
1. Heart Disease	18	10	28
2. Cancer	4	7	11
3. Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	5	7
4. Bronchitis	0	2	2
5. Pulmonary tuberculosis	4	1	5
6. Other Forms of tuberculosis	1	0	1
7. Other Circulatory diseases	2	0	2
8. Pneumonia	2	0	2
9. Other respiratory diseases	1	4	5
10. Peptic Ulcer	2	0	2
11. Influenza	0	1	1
12. Syphilitic Disease	0	1	1
13. Other digestive diseases	0	2	2
14. Premature births	0	1	1
15. Suicide	1	1	2
16. Road Traffic Accidents	0	1	1
17. Other Violent Causes	1	1	2
18. All other causes	3	7	10
	<u>41</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>85</u>

B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

1. Laboratory Facilities.

As in previous years these continue to be provided by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Park Place, Oxford.

2. Ambulance Service.

The Beaconsfield Division of St John Ambulance Brigade maintains the Ambulance Service, and by the courtesy of Lt Colonel S. Hunt. M.B.B.S., D.P.H., I am appending statistics showing the work done during the year.

Invalids 326, Road Accidents.....10, Other....23

By Ambulance.....264, By Sitting Car.....95, Total...359

Mileage

Ambulance.....5542, Sitting Car.....2443, Total..7985

3. NURSING IN THE HOME

Two District Nurses practised in the town during the year 1945. In addition to attending cases at their houses, the nurses gave their services to the monthly Welfare Clinics held at the Old Rectory. Their address is as follows:

Nurse Craft. S.R.N., C.M.B. The Cottage, Wycombe End.
Nurse Stockley. S.R.N., C.M.B. " "

4. CLINICS AND HOSPITALS.

The Bucks County Council Maternity Home, Colingswood, continues to render service to suitable eligible cases from Beaconsfield.

At Amersham, there is an Emergency Medical Services Hospital to which urgent cases continue to be sent from Beaconsfield. The Bucks County Council has established clinics for venereal diseases at the King Edward VII Hospital at Windsor and also at Frogmore, High Wycombe.

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS:

A. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| (1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H. and Housing Acts.) | <u>52</u> |
| (2) Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice. | <u>42</u> |
| (3) Remedy of defects following preliminary or statutory notice. | <u>10</u> |

Disinfection of premises following removal of cases of infectious diseases	<u>18</u>
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Removal of clothing and bedding for steam disinfection following infectious diseases.	<u>3</u>
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B. SEWERAGE AND SEWERING.

There has been no change in regard to the sewerage and sewerage of the district. The present sewage works situated at Holtspur were erected in 1915 for an estimated population of 5,000 but has proved capable of dealing with that of a population considerably larger.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity. Periodic samples are taken and both the bacteriological and chemical analyses are regarded as satisfactory.

A copy of the Analysis is published as Appendix 1

AMERSHAM, BEACONSFIELD AND DISTRICT WATER COMPANY.

Copy of Chemical and Bacteriological Analyses.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000

Appearance.	Bright - few particles of mineral debris.		
Colour	Normal		
Odour	Nil		
Reaction pH	Neutral: 7.2		
Free Carbonic Acid	2.1		
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	450		
Total Solids, dried at 180°C.	30.0		
Chlorine in Chlorides	1.2		
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	24.0		
Hardness - Permanent	3.5	Temporary	22.0 Total 25.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.20		
Nitrogen in Nitrites	absent		
Free Ammonia	0.0000		
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	-		
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.0000		
Albuminoid Nitrogen	-		
Oxygen Absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27°C	0.000		
Metals.	Iron: 0.003	Other metals: absent.	
Free Chlorine reaction	absent.		

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

Number of "Bacteria" growing on Agar per cc or ml. in	}	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C	
		0	0	
		3 days at 20°C	1	
Presumptive Coliform Reaction	Present	-	Absent	100 c.c.
Bact. coli.	Present	-	Absent	100 c.c.
Cl. welchii Reaction	Present	-	Absent	100 c.c.

This is a very satisfactory sample of raw water. It is clear and bright in appearance and conforms to the highest standard of bacterial purity, indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for the purposes of public supply.

Public Cleansing.

The Council's scheme of free service of Cesspool emptying is still maintained on the basis of emptying being carried out within 24 hours of given notice.

In spite of present difficulties in obtaining labour, a regular collection of house refuse has been maintained. The refuse is dumped in conjunction with an industrial firm who have to dispose of a large quantity of aluminium salt, so that adequate cover for the dumped refuse has been provided.

C. Salvage Return for the Year 1945.

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs
Mixed paper.....	105	4	1	0
Bones	3	10	0	8
Bottles	1	6	2	0
Textiles	5	3	3	12
Non-ferrous metals		5	1	14
	115.	10.	0.	6.

Total cash received for sale of above materials - £827.12s.8.

D. HOUSING

The Council's scheme for 100 houses was based on a site on the Amersham Road facing the existing housing scheme, but unfortunately, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in conjunction with the Ministry of Planning turned the scheme down and very great difficulty has been experienced in providing alternative sites, but ultimately it was found possible to obtain a site previously reserved as a public open space, i.e. Candlemas Mead (80 houses) and also some available land in Maxwell Road providing room for 20 houses, giving accommodation for the 100 houses which had been decided on as the Council's immediate programme for house building. These sites have been laid out and the layouts have been approved by the Ministry of Health.

E. Inspection and Supervision of Food: List of food which has been condemned:

Tinned meat and sausage meat.....	206 lbs.
Fresh meat	145 "
Bacon	33 "
Fresh fish	27 stone
Tinned fish	14 tins
Fish cakes	12 doz
Butter	2½lbs
Sponge and Other powders.....	2 cwts
Perage Oats	4 lbs
Biscuits	7 lbs
Pudding Mixture	40 pkts.
Eggs	486
Miscellaneous	69 tins of food

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases.

	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>		<u>Whooping Cough</u>		<u>Measles</u>		<u>Diphtheria</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Numbers originally notified. Civililians.	9	9	-	-	25	42	-	-
Final numbers after Correction								
0								
1.....					1	6		
3.....	4	2			6	9		
5.....	5	5			17	21		
10.....		1			1	4		
15.....						1		
25.....						1		
Age unknown								
Total Civililians	9	9			25	42	Nil	

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

Return for Year ending 31st December, 1945.

Number of children permanently or temporarily resident in the Authority's area dealt with under arrangements made by the Authority or by the County Council.

	<u>Age under 5 years</u>	<u>5 years and over but under 15</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Number of children completed full course during year	25	8	33

I. (A) Approximate estimated no of children in the Authority's area at 31.12.45 ..420.	<u>Under 5</u>	<u>Between 5 and 15</u>
	800....	

(B) What percentage of the child population shown under ..83.3 % 80.7%

(A) is it considered were immunised at 31st December 1945 ?

During the year 1945 there was no case of Diphtheria notified in the district.

ALBION
ON